Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled).
14. (Canceled).
15. (Currently amended) An apparatus for treating a waste gas containing a combustible compound comprising:

a catalytic oxidation reactor for treating the waste gas by combustion.

a device for supplying the waste gas to the reactor,

at least a first pre-heater device and a second pre-heater device for heating the waste gas prior to its entry into the reactor;

a heat-recovery device for recovering heat from treated gas emanating from the reactor; and

a molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device for supplying molecular oxygen-containing gas to a waste gas inlet of the first pre-heater device and to at least one region of the apparatus between a waste gas outlet of the first pre-heater device and an inlet of the reactor,

~~wherein the apparatus being adapted to allow~~means for supplying the treated gas emanating from the reactor to ~~be supplied to~~ the second pre-heater device and to the heat-recovery device as a heat source, and ~~to allow~~

means for supplying treated gas emanating from the second pre-heater device ~~to be supplied~~ to the first pre-heater device as a heat source wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device is connected to the waste gas inlet of the first pre-heater device, and further is connected to:

a region of the apparatus between the waste gas outlet of the first pre-heater device and the waste gas inlet of the second pre-heater device; and/or

a region of the apparatus between the waste gas outlet of the second pre-heater device and the inlet of the reactor; and

~~the molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device receives a signal from an oxygen concentration detector disposed in a pipe on a treated gas outlet side of the first pre-heater~~

a temperature measuring means for the treated gas emanating from said first waste gas pre-heater; and

a molecular oxygen-containing gas flow controller to adjust the amount of the molecular oxygen-containing gas supplied to an arbitrary point between the waste gas outlet of said first waste gas pre-heater and the waste gas inlet of said reactor;

the temperature of the treated gas emanating from said first waste gas pre-heater being set at an arbitrary level by adjusting the amount of said molecular oxygen-contain gas.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is adapted to allow treated gas emanating from the second pre-heater device to be supplied to the first pre-heater device as a heat source without being passed through the heat-recovery device.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas supply is a device furnished with a driving part capable of being driven at various revolutions.